



# The Hour

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2nd St., New York  
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### FASCIST FEUD BRINGS MURDER

John F. Arena is Casualty in War Between Fascist Gangs

The killing on April 16 of John F. Arena, editor of the Chicago Italian-language newspaper La Tribuna, was not the result of Arena's "anti-fascist activities," as was reported in the press. The murder was actually a culminating incident in the internecine strife of rival Italian fascist factions in Chicago. Editor Arena was a leader in one of these factions.

Arena originally worked hand-in-glove with the Italian consulate in Chicago and the pro-Mussolini bands operating in that city. He was then editor of L'Italia, the policies of which have been consistently fascist. He was a member of the fascist Italian-American National Union. In 1939, as the result of a bitter personal quarrel, he quit L'Italia and founded La Tribuna. He used this publication to attack his old associates; and he attracted to his side various disgruntled fascist elements.

As the struggle between the factions became increasingly severe, Arena printed venomous tirades against the Italian consulate in Chicago, which was lending its support to the L'Italia group. He sued his old friends on L'Italia and they sued him. Finally Arena turned informer against his former pals. He did this not because he disagreed with them politically. He was as pro-fascist and anti-Semitic as the best of them; scarcely a day passed without his praising Mussolini or Hitler. But, carried away by an animosity not uncommon among warring gangsters, he was out to get them in any way that he could. He offered evidence to the Dies Committee.

Late in the evening of April 16, the very day on which he had met with members of the Dies Committee, Arena was shot down by two gunmen. Witnesses described them as "swarthy, of medium height, and wearing dark overcoats and hats" -- apparently, professional mobsters.

Among Arena's fiercest enemies was Philip d'Andrea, bigwig in Italian fascist circles and friend of Dr. Riccardo Moscati, the Italian consul. Arena and d'Andrea were once on the closest of terms, but that

was before the split-up. When Arena started to talk, d'Andrea allegedly had good reason to be worried. Certainly he was among those who would have liked Arena to be silent. Significantly, Philip d'Andrea was once an intimate of Al Capone. It is said he is still friendly with the underworld and has not lost his access to its professional mobsters.

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## CAREER OF KALINA LISSIUK

Two weeks ago in our item "Ukrainian Fascists and Pennsylvania Train Wreck," we mentioned Kalina Lissiuk as one of the Ukrainian terrorists who has been most active in the Pittsburgh area, where the Cleveland-to-Pittsburgh express was derailed on March 16. Lissiuk, as The Hour pointed out, had held special conferences with the key Nazi-Ukrainian agent Captain Leonid Klimenko, during the latter's recent visit to the United States.

Since publishing the article on the train wreck, The Hour has come into possession of further pertinent data concerning the amazing career of Kalina Lissiuk. The following are the facts we have learned.

### Early Background of Lissiuk-Lemishta

Kalina Lissiuk is not the man's real name. He was previously known in Europe as Lemishta. According to some reports, he was also known as Kalinichenko. He was born in the Province of Podolia, District of Proskurov, Russia.

At the outbreak of the revolution in Russia, Lissiuk (Lemishta) was a member of the Okhrana, the Czarist secret police. Around 1918 he joined the Intelligence Division of General Denikin's army when this force occupied Odessa in the struggle against the Soviets. Denikin's army was notorious for the pogroms it conducted and for its pillaging of the Jewish population. To the Intelligence Division, of which Lissiuk was one of the top men, was assigned the task of instigating these pogroms.

In 1919, under the name of "Kalenik" Lissiuk, he became assistant to M. Chobotariw, head of the Intelligence Division in the army of Petlura, another White Russian military commander. Like Denikin, Petlura achieved world-wide notoriety for his persecution of the Jews. Chobotariw's Intelligence Division supervised the pogroms. It also had charge of raising funds by devious methods, one of which was to arrest wealthy Jews, hold them for ransom and then shoot them after the money was obtained.

### Hitler Agent

In 1920 Lissiuk arrived in Germany and there became connected with a well-known anti-Semite and pogrom-expert by the name of Poltavetz-Ostranitz. The latter, as early as 1923, was working with Adolf Hitler and the infant National Socialist Party. When, in 1923, Lissiuk first came to the United States, he traveled as the representative of Poltavetz-Ostranitz. He even gave himself the title of "Polavetz's delegado for North



and South America." Already at this time it was Lissiuk's function to spread Hitlerite and anti-Semitic ideas among the million-odd Ukrainian-Americans. Lissiuk built a circulation in this country for Polavetz's Jew-baiting The Ukrainian Cossack, which was the first pro-Nazi newspaper in the Ukrainian language.

#### Lissiuk as "Stamp-Collector"

When Lissiuk arrived in America he had with him an exceedingly rare and valuable collection of Russian stamps, some of which sold for as much as \$1200 a piece. Lissiuk sold these stamps to collectors throughout this country, and the proceeds were used by him in the promotion of his propaganda work. When it was later discovered that some of these stamps had originally been part of famous collections abroad, Lissiuk had no adequate explanation as to how they had fallen into his hands. The way in which he acquired them is still an enigma. Two theories have been advanced: 1) he got them in the Ukraine by "requisition" or "confiscation" from certain wealthy individuals; 2) an organization in Germany gave Lissiuk the stamps in order to provide him with additional funds for his mission in the United States, and at the same time to help disguise the true nature of his activities.

#### Work in the U. S.

Since coming to this country, Lissiuk has tried to work his way into every Ukrainian-American organization. He has made frequent trips to Germany, where he is today highly regarded. He has acted as a key contact man for the Nazis in the United States.

He has powerful friends in the Ukrainian-American community. Among them is Luke Myshuha, editor of the fascistic Svoboda and former guest of the Third Reich on its radio network. A short time ago Myshuha was even campaigning to have Lissiuk elected to the presidency of the Ukrainian Nationalist Association, an organization which has some 40,000 members.

The Hour is informed that Lissiuk is maintaining close contact with the Japanese as well as with the Nazis. His activities, never of too healthy a character, are today doubly dangerous. The Hour believes that a questioning of Kalina Lissiuk by the federal authorities would produce very interesting results.

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#### "EASTER BELLS" IN THE THIRD REICH

To celebrate the season of Easter, Facts In Review, the Nazi propaganda weekly published in New York City, prepared "a special pictorial issue." Forty pages in length, printed on glossy paper, and replete with photographs of peaceful landscapes, the Easter issue opened with this ecstastic, if somewhat inapt, comment:

"EASTER IN GERMANY -- Spring Comes To The Mountains --  
The Hounds of Spring Are on Winter's Traces ...

"Again, wide over the German land, Easter bells jubilate,  
singing of His glory.

"Gay are the dresses and bright eyes of a million children  
as they search for the multi-colored eggs the Easter bunny  
has hidden for them somewhere ..."

The issue enumerates not only the "blessings" Nazism has brought to Germany but also those bestowed by the Third Reich on conquered territories. According to Facts In Review, the latter blessings fall chiefly on the working populations. In proof the Nazi magazine includes an item entitled "Benefits for Czech Workers," which states:

"... foreign workers in Germany enjoy in effect the same protection and the same privileges as the German. In addition to regulations already in force, foreign workers and workers for the Protectorate Bohemia-Moravia who have their homes outside Germany but work within the borders of the Reich ... are being granted free trips back home, provided they are employed in those branches of industry which provide such Familienheimfahrten for German workmen."

#### Another Version

A slightly different picture of how this "protection" and these "privileges" work out in practise is given in an official statement which was recently addressed to the German population in Bautzen, Saxony, by the Nazi district leader Martin. The statement (to which Facts In Review of course makes no reference) reads:

"Poles and Czechs are our enemies. The cognizance of this fact compels us to be strict with them. Our attitude toward them must be based on these principles;

"1) The German worker is our brother; the foreigner is an enemy of the people.

"2) The difference between our worker and a foreign one must be clear and discernible. The German worker is no colleague of a foreign worker.

"3) The German worker has a right to a better job even if the foreigner is better qualified."

Principles 4 and 5 declare that no foreigner shall be allowed to supervise German workers, and that any contact by German workers with foreign workers, except during the course of work, is strictly forbidden. "A German who maintains a friendly relation with foreigners will be publicly reprimanded. No foreman is permitted to invite a foreign worker to his home, nor to sit with him at the table."

Such are the blessings of Nazism.